

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claim 2 is amended to include the limitations of claim 6 and is further supported at page 8, lines 24-31 of the present specification. Claim 7 is amended to depend from claim 2. Claims 11, 12 and 14 have been amended to correct formal matters. Claims 3, 4, 6, 8 and 9 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. As the revision to claim 2 incorporates features from a previously pending claim, entry of this amendment is proper. Likewise, revising claim 11 to include "a substrate" merely corrects an inadvertent removal of that phrase in the Applicants' Amendment dated November 14, 2002.

Claims 2-4, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Deki et al. (U.S. 5,274,340). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claim 2 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 6, and claims 3, 4, 8, and 9 have been canceled. Therefore, the current rejection is moot in view of the following obviousness rejection.

Claims 2-4, 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishimura, JP 265702, in view of Deki. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claims 3 and 4 have been canceled, rendering this rejection moot as to those claims. As noted above, claim 2 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 6, and claim 7 has been amended to depend from claim 2.

Nishimura discloses a plate 6 extending in the case 3 orthogonal to a transmission direction along microstrip 1. However, with the shape of plate 6 and significant spacing between plate 6 and the conductor element 2, as shown in Figures 1(a) and (b) and Figures 3(a)-(c) of Nishimura, it is not possible to "isolate said connection portion from said high-frequency circuit," or provide "cutting off the propagation path for the high-frequency waves in the internal space of said metal box," as required by claim 2.

Deki discloses a partition plate 7 as well as input/output terminals 9, 10. However, the partition plate 7 does not separate a space around terminal 9 from a space around terminal 10. Therefore, high-frequency waves easily propagate from the input/output terminal 9 to the input/output terminal 10 without being suppressed by the partition plate 7. Thus, Deki and

Nishimura fail to disclose or suggest every limitation of claim 2 including “a plate, ... placed spanning over and approximately perpendicular to at least one input/output line of said high-frequency circuit so as not to be in contact electrically with said input/output line and so as to isolate connection portion between the input/output terminal and the input/output line from said high frequency circuit, thereby cutting off the propagation path of the high-frequency waves and the internal space of said metal box.”

Claims 11-13, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deki in view of Tsuji, JP 4049703. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As discussed above, the partition plate 7 disclosed by Deki fails to separate a space around terminal 9 from a space around terminal 10. Tsuji discloses a dividing fin 9 that divides a space in a manner different from the limitations of claim 11. The dividing fin 9 laterally divides the metal box as shown in Figure 1 such that the input/output lead electrodes 6a, 6b and respective coupling lines 5a, 5b are not separated from each other. As a result, the combination of Tsuji and Deki fails to disclose or suggest “covers ... within an internal space of said metal box so as to separate a region around one of the input/output lines from another region around another of said input/output lines and thereby suppress the propagation of high-frequency waves,” as required by claim 11 and the claims that depend from it. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

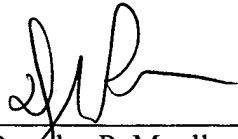
Claims 10 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the preceding rejections as applied to claims 2 and 11, respectively, and further in view of Buck, U.S. 5,164,358. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. As discussed above, Nishimura and Deki fail to disclose or suggest every limitation of claim 2. Furthermore, Tsuji and Deki fail to disclose or suggest every limitation of claim 11. Buck fails to remedy the deficiencies of Nishimura, Deki and Tsuji as they apply to claims 2 and 11. Therefore, claims 10 and 17 are allowable for at least the reason they are dependent upon an allowable base claim. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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